



Schultz-Wautoma

500-kV Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration is committed to providing reliable power to the Northwest region. BPA is proposing to build new infrastructure projects to improve the distribution of power to meet existing and future power needs. The Schultz-Wautoma project is needed to ease electricity flows in the I-5 corridor and over the intertie to California while increasing transmission capacity in the Hanford area during spring and summer months. This is one of several critical projects BPA has planned to solve power reliability problems in the Northwest.

Project Description

The Schultz-Wautoma (formerly Schultz-Hanford) is a 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will be about 63 miles long and add additional capacity to the heart of BPA's electric grid in central Washington. The proposed line would connect BPA's Schultz substation near Ellensburg, Wash., to a new substation at Wautoma.

The line will:

- Run up the middle of the Columbia River Basin.
- Cross the very western end of the Hanford Reach National Monument and the U.S. Army's Yakima Firing Range.
- Increase transmission capacity north of Hanford and allow additional power to move through this area during the spring and summer months.

Working with the Community

This project involves crossing the Columbia River twice, Crab Creek, the Hanford Reach National Monument and the U.S. Army's Yakima Training Center. It also involves constructing new towers, conductors and fiber on public and private properties, some of which contain agricultural crops, wetlands and cultural sites. BPA is committed to working with public agencies, interest groups, Tribes and private property owners to minimize design and construction impacts.

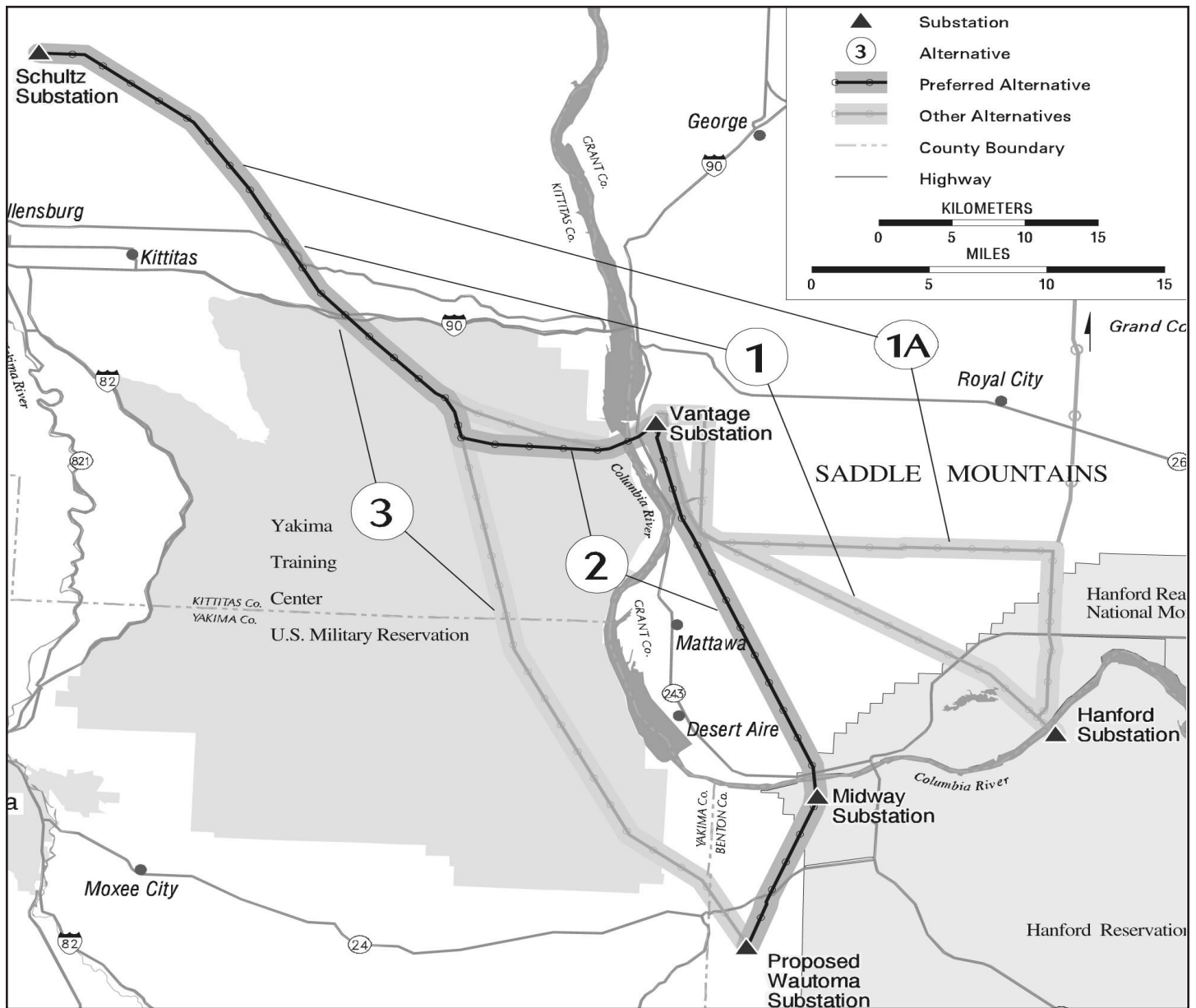
Environmental Planning

As BPA designed this project, special attention was paid to minimize disruption to people, habitat and farm production. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was developed for this project to look at alignment alternatives and mitigation issues. The EIS focuses on protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment and requesting public input on project alternatives. Some of the key project milestones are listed below:

- **Scoping.** BPA identified possible issues and concerns on the project by conducting public meetings and meeting with state and federal agencies and concerned tribes in January 2001.
- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** A draft EIS describes the existing environment and how it may be affected. It analyzes cultural resources, fish and wildlife, land use and visual resources. The draft EIS was released in February 2003.

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This map shows the proposed route for a new 500-kV transmission line.

■ **Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).**

The final EIS was released January 29, 2003.

- **Decision.** The record of decision was released March 17, 2003.

Funding and Schedule

BPA is funding this project, which is estimated to cost \$144 million. Substation construction will started in April 2003, but line construction has been delayed for one year due to budget constraints.

Questions or Comments

If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please contact BPA Project Manager Lou Driessen toll free at 1-888-276-7790 or visit BPA's Web site at www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects. If you have real estate or easement questions or would like BPA to meet with you on site, please call Mari Rosales 509-321-2226.

